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1
             IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
                   SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
2
                        EASTERN DIVISION
3
     Cheryl Sheets,
4
5
            Plaintiff,
6
            vs.
                                   Case No.
                                   2:21-cv-01810
7
     Sheriff Alex Lape, et al.,:
8
            Defendants.
9
10
       VIDEOCONFERENCE DEPOSITION OF DEPUTY WESLEY REED
11
12
                                Friday, May 13, 2022
                                10:08 a.m.
13
14
                    MARILYN K. MARTIN, RPR
15
               REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL REPORTER
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22
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14	On behalf of the Defendants.
15	ALSO PRESENT:
16	Deputy Marty Norris
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION May 13, 2022 10:08 a.m. STIPULATIONS It is stipulated by and between counsel for the respective parties herein that this deposition of DEPUTY WESLEY REED, a Witness herein, called by the Plaintiff under the statute, may be taken at this time and reduced to writing in stenotypy by the Notary, whose notes may thereafter be transcribed out of the presence of the witness; and that proof of the official character and qualifications of the Notary is waived.

1 PROCEEDINGS 2 3 DEPUTY WESLEY REED, 4 being by me first duly sworn, as hereinafter 5 certified, testifies and says as follows: 6 CROSS-EXAMINATION 7 BY MS. KING: Good morning, Deputy Reed. How are you Q. 9 today? 10 Α. I'm well. Thank you. 11 My name is Billi Copeland King, and I'm Q. 12 going to ask you a few questions this morning. And 13 have you done a deposition before? 14 This is my first time. Α. No. 15 You have not. Great. So there's some Ο. 16 ground rules. One of the first ground rules is to 17 make sure that you answer audibly because the court 18 reporter, of course, cannot understand nods and 19 gestures. So just to make sure that you speak your 20 answer. Okay? 21 Α. Okay. 22 If, at any time, you need a break, that's Q. 23 Just let us know; however, just make sure that 24 you finish answering the question before you ask for

```
1
     that break. Okay?
2
     Α.
                Okay.
3
                All right. And one of the other rules
     Q.
4
     that you need to take note of is: When I'm asking a
5
     question, just wait until I finish asking the
6
     question to give your answer. Okay?
7
     Α.
                Okay.
                All right. Do you have any questions for
     Q.
9
     me before we get started?
10
     Α.
                No, I don't.
11
                       So I'm going to go ahead and ask
     Ο.
                Okay.
12
     you to state and spell your name for the record.
13
     Α.
                Wesley Reed, W-E-S-L-E-Y, R-E-E-D.
14
                Okay. And can you give me your date of
     Ο.
15
     birth.
16
     Α.
                May 8, 1989.
17
                Okay. And, Deputy Reed, how tall are you?
     Ο.
18
     Α.
                I am six-one.
19
                       How much do you weigh?
     Q.
                Okav.
20
     Α.
                250.
21
     Ο.
                Okay. And there's one question I forgot
22
     to ask you. Are you under the influence of anything
23
     today that would impact your ability to answer
```

questions?

- A. No, I'm not.
- Q. Okay. Thank you. So we're going to go
- ahead; and I'm going to ask you some questions about
- 4 your employment history, your discipline, if you've
- 5 had any discipline and a few other questions about
- 6 your training and education. Okay?
- 7 All right. So where are you currently
- 8 employed?

- 9 A. Right now I'm at Fairfield County Medical
- 10 Center Police Department.
- 11 Q. How long have you been there?
- 12 A. About a year and a half.
- Q. So you started there in the end of 2020?
- 14 A. Yeah.
- Q. Okay. Do you know about what month?
- 16 A. I believe it was September.
- Q. Okay. And before that, where did you
- 18 work?
- 19 A. I was here at the Fairfield County
- 20 Sheriff's Office.
- 21 Q. Can you give me the dates of that
- 22 employment?
- A. I was hired in 2018. I believe it was
- 24 August of 2018. And I was here for just under two

```
years. Left right at 2020. I would say
August -- late August of 2020.
```

- Q. Okay. And before that, where did you work?
- 5 A. Before that, I was not in law enforcement.
- 6 I was doing media for a local church.
- 7 Q. How long were you there?
- A. I was there for probably three years, but
 not doing media the entire time. They were building
 a new -- a new building, an add-on. So I was
 employed by the pastor to help that. And then I have
- a degree in film. That's what I went to college for.
- So after the building was complete, he kind of just transitioned me over to help build the media side.
- Q. Okay. We'll get to that. So where did you get your officer's training?
- 17 A. I got it through OPOTA at Hocking College.
- Q. Do you have a degree besides film?
- 19 A. I do not.
- Q. Okay. And what certifications do you
- 21 have?

- 22 A. We -- we do yearly certifications both at
- the sheriff's office and at the hospital, force on
- force training certifications, recertifications on

taser qualifications and qualifications on,
obviously, firearms.

5

6

7

11

13

21

22

- Q. Okay. What's force on force training?
 - A. Force on force training is understanding the use of force continuum and when it is legal for us to place hands on somebody and then the

progression of that continuum to ultimately using

- death, force of death. So there's a continuum

 from -- from verbal, and then you work your way

 through the issues and obviously use force that is
- Q. In your training, how are you taught to

necessary to -- to extinguish a problem.

progress through the continuum?

- 14 A. Well, it's basically verbal is always the
 15 very beginning; and you are going -- basing your
 16 reaction from the person's -- how they -- their body
 17 language, the way they're speaking back to you, these
 18 little things, these little cues that officers have
 19 to go on to determine that amount of force that's
 20 necessary, if any is necessary.
 - Q. Okay. And can you name the stages of the continuum of force for me?
- 23 A. Not right off the top of my head.
- Q. Okay. You stated No. 1 is verbal. Do you

1 remember No. 2? 2 Verbal. And then it would go to a Α. 3 physical -- physical contact, generally hand to hand. 4 And then it would progress from there, using 5 nonlethal or, you know, tasers, pepper spray, 6 anything of that nature that we have available to us. 7 And then moving on from less lethal, obviously, to a lethal means. 9 Q. Okay. And so you mentioned that --10 reaction, body language cues. Can you name some of 11 those reactions, body language cues that would lead you to go from a one, verbal to a two, physical 12 13 contact? 14 So it would be the person's body, Α. Sure. how they're standing, the way their hands are, 15 16 whether they have their hands in their pants, whether their hands are out, whether they're balled as --17 18 balled in fists or relaxed. A lot of, you know, 19 gritting of the teeth. You know, the muscles in the 20 jaw, you can look and see. 21 And then obviously, you go into the 22 verbal, how they're responding to what you're doing 23 or the commands you're giving them, if their voice 24 becomes heightened and they begin to yell, things of

```
1
     that nature. Mainly it's body language that I
2
     personally look at and cues that tell any kind of
3
     beforehand how things are going to go.
4
                Okay. And then what if you're wrong?
     Q.
5
                Well, we have --
     Α.
6
                MS. JARMUSZ: I was going to say if you
7
     don't understand the question, ask her to clarify.
                We have split second decisions in a lot of
     Α.
9
     the things that we do every day. And you go on what
10
     you believe is the best possible thing that you're
11
     observing at the time.
12
     Q.
                So yelling would lead to physical contact?
13
                No.
     Α.
14
                MS. JARMUSZ: I'll object to the form.
15
                But you can answer.
16
                No, not necessarily. There's a lot of
     Α.
17
     different variables that come into play. But, no,
18
     the yelling does not always lead to a physical
19
     confrontation.
20
                Okay.
                       So let's go back to your employment
     Ο.
21
     at Fairfield County Sheriff's Office. While you were
22
     there -- I know it was a short period of time.
23
     while you were there, did you have any discipline
24
     issues?
```

1 Α. While I was at Fairfield County? 2 Correct. Q. I do not recall having any disciplinary 3 Α. 4 issues. 5 Have you ever had any disciplinary issues? Ο. Α. No. 7 Okay. Have you ever been ordered to go Ο. through any additional training? 9 Α. No. Nothing additional. It's always just been the in-service stuff, the usual things and a lot 10 11 of times asking or requesting for additional training just on my own, maybe even just out of my own pocket 12 13 just to get some more training on my off time. 14 Okay. So do you remember the incident Ο. 15 that happened with Cheryl Sheets on 9/17/2019? 16 Yes, I do. Α. 17 Q. Okay. Can you tell me about it. 18 Α. So myself, I was still on FTO, which is 19 field training. So I was coming out of the jail and 20 going to patrol and learning all the facets of not 21 only patrol, but as a sheriff's office as a whole. So we work with the canine unit. We work 22 23 with the detective bureau, and we bounced around, and

obviously had the majority of the time out on the

road with other more experienced deputies that are training officers that you kind of ride along with. And they -- you know, they just impart some things that they've learned in their careers, and you kind of gather everything and make it your own. Once you're out on your own, you just -- you work it out and figure out what's best that works for you.

But to go back to your question, myself and Training Officer Shorr, which is now Sergeant Shorr here at the sheriff's office, him and I were in a cruiser together. We were on our way back into the city of Lancaster, being out in the county, coming back into the city. And we overheard Deputy Norris mark that he was out on a traffic stop and was asking for a second unit. So us being in that vicinity of Deputy Norris, we decided to go over there and give him the backup he requested.

So once we got there, Marty had actually marked out at an apartment that was pretty much right in front of where he had stopped this vehicle.

Apparently he had gotten some intel that there was a male inside of that apartment that had a warrant. So we -- we went over to the house.

Marty and -- or Deputy Norris and

Deputy Shorr, they both went to the front door.

Deputy Norris asked me if I would go to the back of the apartment for rear security because there's a lot of times where you knock at the front, and somebody runs out the back. And we wanted to contain that area and make sure anybody coming in and out that we were there to stop them and detain them for a period of time.

So I went to the back of the apartment.

So I went to the back of the apartment.

Again, just stood by and waited. They made entry into the house after knocking. Somebody answered the door. They let them in. And they were inside.

I could hear just audible. You know, nothing that I could hear very clear. I was standing outside.

So they went through the house, and

Deputy Norris ended up opening -- unlocking the back

door, opening the back door, saying, "Hey, everything

is good here. Can you come in here and just continue

to help search for this individual."

"Sure."

So I went in. Went into the back bedroom.

And we were searching the back bedroom, looking in closets and things like that, just any space where

somebody could hide themselves. And that's what we were there for.

And about that time I came in -- it didn't take very long at all, a couple minutes -- when Ms. Sheets came from the front of the apartment, and she came back to the back bedroom. And at the very beginning, she was just observing, seeing what we were doing. And then she became verbal, asking -- you know, asking us what we were doing.

And we continued to let her know just to stay calm. The easier it is for us to get in there, look where we feel we need to look and get out the better so we're not taking up her time, and we can go on to other things.

And she was very persistent with us about exactly what we were doing, and we were continually repeating ourselves, looking -- you know, we have -- "There's a man here that apparently has a warrant. We're looking for him." And she just kept ramping up, ramping up to the point where Deputy Norris asked her, "If you would please remain calm and quiet, we can do our jobs. If not, I'm going to arrest you for obstruction of justice, disorderly conduct."

And at that time, that heightened her even

more. She actually began yelling at us. Again, we repeated ourselves, letting her know if she does not stay calm and compliant that she would be going to jail. And she did not listen to our multiple -- multiple requests for her to do that, so that's when Deputy Norris told her that she was under arrest.

And as we were placing her -- As he went to grab her to place her in handcuffs, that's when she reached out and attempted to grab Marty's shoulder. At that point, he grabbed her hand and maneuvered her to the bed where I was on the side of the bed. I had placed -- Just to help control her, I placed my hand on the back of her head. As Marty was bringing her arm back, that's when she yelled and said, "You broke my arm."

So we both looked at each other. He released her arm. I released from the back of her head. And that's when we called for medical. So we put her on an ambulance, and I rode with her to Fairfield Medical Center River Valley Campus on 33 where she was treated.

Q. Okay. Thank you for that. I have a few follow-up questions for you.

- A. Sure.
- Q. So you said that this went from a traffic
- 3 stop to an apartment search?
- 4 A. Yes.
- Okay. And when you were by the back door
- 6 providing rear security, how long were you there?
- 7 A. I would say I was there no longer than
- 8 eight minutes. It really was not a very long period
- 9 of time.

- The apartment complex -- or the apartment
- itself -- not the complex. But the apartment is only
- so big, so it really did not take a very long period
- of time before Marty unlocked that back door.
- Q. Okay. And so you were there for eight
- minutes. And you said that when you made entry that
- 16 Cheryl Sheets was still in the front room?
- 17 A. Yes. That was -- Yeah. She was -- If she
- wasn't in the -- she was not in that back room where
- we were initially, she was -- I was -- would quess
- that she would be in the front room or in that
- 21 | hallway that led to the back, but she was not there
- 22 initially.
- Q. Okay. And tell me the approximate amount
- of time that you entered that back bedroom to where

```
1
     the incident -- the touching happened between
2
     Deputy Norris and Ms. Sheets -- Ms. Sheets rather.
3
                MS. JARMUSZ: Object to form.
4
                You can answer.
5
                            I can't hear you.
                MS. KING:
6
                MS. JARMUSZ: I just objected to form but
7
     said he could answer.
8
                MS. KING: Okay. Thank you.
9
     Α.
                 I would say we were back there for no more
10
     than ten -- no more than ten minutes.
11
                Now, you mentioned the size of the space,
     Q.
12
     that it was small.
13
     Α.
                Yeah. It was a smaller apartment.
14
                Can you give me approximate dimensions of
     Ο.
15
     the room?
16
     Α.
                I cannot. It was -- it was very small.
     That's the only thing I could say. I couldn't -- The
17
     actual back bedroom, is that what you're asking, back
18
19
     bedroom?
20
                I'm asking you about the space that you
     O.
21
     were in when you stepped into the residence.
22
                      Yeah. I don't know. I can't tell
     Α.
                Okay.
23
     you the approximate dimensions of that room. I just
24
     know it was small.
```

```
1
                Can you tell me what was in that room?
     Ο.
2
                       There was a bed, probably about a
                Yeah.
     Α.
3
     twin size bed, one wooden dresser and a bunch of
     clothes and stuff. I remember seeing just a bunch of
4
5
               And we -- There was a -- there's a small
     clothes.
     closet as well that was just packed full of stuff.
7
     But in terms of furniture, it was really just -- I
     think there was a small nightstand too, but really
9
     those were the only three furniture items that were
10
     in the room.
11
                Okay. Did you observe anything else?
     Ο.
12
                     I don't -- I don't -- I can't -- I
     Α.
                No.
13
     don't remember specifics other than those -- those
14
     three -- three things in there.
15
                Tell me about how the space is arranged
     Q.
16
     when you stepped in the back door. Were you by the
17
     nightstand, or were you by the closet?
18
                MS. JARMUSZ: I'll object to form.
19
                You can answer.
20
                I know that that back door -- If I
     Α.
21
     remember, that back door opened, and the closet was
22
     behind that door once you opened it up because
23
     I -- I -- I believe I recall opening the door and
24
     having to close it again so that we could search the
```

- closet space. So I would guess when I entered, I was
 closest to the closet.
- Q. During the incident, did you remain closest to the closet?
- A. Yeah. I mean, that was -- that was the most obvious space in that room where somebody could have been concealing themselves, so that was really the -- that -- that was the one spot that we were trying to look through for the individual. But after
- we had done that and she had -- became very
 heightened, that's when I kind of went around to the
 back of the bed to help Marty out just to, you know,
 qet closer to the both of them.
- Q. What did Ms. Sheets say exactly -- her exact words about overstepping?
- A. Yeah. I believe that's pretty much what she was saying, was that, "You're overstepping.
- You're overstepping your bounds." And we reassured
 her that we were not. But that's the one thing that
 I remember her repeating quit a lot. Yeah. That was
 probably the one thing that she continued to say over
 and over.
- Q. Was it something that you were doing?

A. No. Not to my knowledge. I don't think

1 it was something that either one of us were doing. Ι 2 believe we were both very reasonable. We weren't 3 tossing things around. We weren't flipping her -- We 4 weren't destroying her home. We were in there and 5 moving things as much as what we needed to, but it 6 wasn't like we were just, you know, ransacking her 7 apartment looking for this quy. That's not what -- You know, that's not what we were doing. 9 Q. During the search, what items did you move? 10 11 It was -- I think we -- We moved the Α. 12 dresser, the clothing dresser out just a little bit 13 and then -- because there was a space I think in 14 between that dresser and the back wall, so we moved 15 that a little bit. We moved it back. The majority 16 of the stuff that we moved was in the closet just 17 because she had so many items of clothing, trash bags 18 probably filled with clothes or something else that 19 was just piled up at the bottom of the closet. 20 the majority of that we were moving out so that we 21 could actually look and see into the back corners of 22 that closet to see if someone was sitting back there. 23 What are the approximate dimensions of the O. 24 closet?

```
1
                I cannot -- I cannot answer that.
     Α.
2
     know that it was wide enough for someone to either
3
     stand or maybe a smaller person to sit almost like in
4
     the fetal position down in that corner. But it
5
     couldn't have been any more than, I don't know, a
     three by four. Just a little closet.
7
                       And you mentioned that you had
     Ο.
                Okav.
     moved some of the items in the closet.
9
     Α.
                Yeah. We moved --
10
                What were those items?
     Ο.
11
                Just larger trash bags. That's what I
     Α.
12
     remember most, is that she had multiple trash bags
13
     that were kind of just piled in there. So we wanted
14
     to move those to see if someone had went back into
15
     that little nook of that closet and then put those
16
     things back on themselves. So we were just securing
17
     that area and making sure no one was back there
18
     hiding.
                Okay. And in your estimation, how long
19
     Ο.
20
     did that take?
21
                It was within that ten-minute window that
     Α.
```

we were back in that room. It couldn't have taken

any more than a couple minutes to move that stuff.

But it was within that ten-minute span of your

22

23

- earlier question, how long you -- I felt we were back in that room together searching.
- Q. Okay. So during that ten minutes, you
- said that had you moved the dresser, and you searched
- 5 the closet?
- 6 A. Yeah.
- 7 Q. Did you search any other area of the
- 8 | bedroom?
- 9 A. No. I mean, we checked underneath -- You
- 10 know, we dipped our head down and checked underneath
- 11 the bed. But there really was no -- nothing else to
- 12 look through at that time. I mean, we had pretty
- much looked through that entire room.
- Q. Okay. So can you tell me in detail what
- happened during the physical contact between
- Deputy Norris and Ms. Sheets?
- 17 A. You want me to go -- Can you restate it
- 18 again? I'm sorry.
- 19 Q. Yes.
- 20 A. Step by step?
- Q. Step by step, yes.
- 22 A. Okay. Well, she was -- she was very upset
- at that time. Given multiple commands of her, you
- know, calming down or she would be arrested.

So -- so Marty -- or Deputy Norris -- I'm sorry -- he once again, after multiple times telling her that that would be her circumstance if she continued to -- to be loud and disruptive, that he turned to her and said, "Ma'am, go ahead and put your hands behind your back. You're going to jail."

And at that point is when she threw her hands up and went towards Marty, lunging towards him. And that's when he -- he grabbed her -- grabbed her wrist and removed her hand from his shoulder, moving her by the arm towards the bed. And once she -- Once he placed her on the bed, she was -- she was face down, chest down on the bed, and he was maneuvering her arm back. And while he was doing that, that's when the injury occurred. And she -- that's when she yelled that we had broken her arm.

And it was immediate. As soon as she started yelling, you know, we both looked at each other. Marty gave me a nod like, "Okay. It's time to, you know, cool off." We obviously did something.

And so we both backed off from her. And it was a -- it was immediately after that, once we stood up that we called for the ambulance; and they were there in a very quick amount of time.

```
1
                And describe what the environment was like
     Ο.
2
     at that point. Was it still heightened?
3
                     Not at all. No. As soon as -- as
     Α.
                No.
4
     soon as we both realized that that had happened,
5
     the -- it completely shifted. We -- we were off of
6
     her, obviously getting her arm into some sort of
7
     position after we had called for the squad. Gave her
     the aid that we could assist her with by, you know,
9
     keeping her arm close to her chest, standing her up,
10
     making sure she was -- you know, doing all these very
11
     basic, I quess, first aid for something like that,
12
     for an injury like that.
13
                Did you touch her arm at any time?
     Q.
14
                I did not, no. No. As soon as it
     Α.
15
     happened, we got it to the front. That's when
16
     Deputy Norris -- we got her off the bed and moved her
17
     to the front of the residence where we kind of just
18
     stood by and waited for the ambulance to get there.
19
                Okay. Did you have a body cam on that
     Q.
20
     day?
21
                     We did not. At that time, the
     Α.
                No.
22
     sheriff's office did not issue any body cameras.
23
     They -- I can't -- I can't give you when those were
24
     implemented because I had already left and was at
```

```
Fairfield -- or I was already at Fairfield County
1
2
     Medical Center, working there by the time they
     actually had implemented those body cameras.
3
                 MS. KING: Okay. So at this time, I would
4
5
     like to take a break.
6
                         (Recess taken.)
7
                 MS. KING:
                            Thank you. Deputy Reed, that's
     all of the questions that I have for you today.
8
9
                 MS. JARMUSZ: We will read.
10
                    (Signature not waived.)
11
12
                 And, thereupon, the deposition was
13
     concluded at approximately 10:49 a.m.
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
```

1	State of Ohio :
2	SS: County of Franklin:
3	I, DEPUTY WESLEY REED, do hereby certify
4	that I have read the foregoing transcript of my
5	deposition given on May 13, 2022; that together with
6	the correction page attached hereto noting changes in
7	form or substance, if any, it is true and correct.
8	
9	DEPUTY WESLEY REED
LO	DEPOIY WESLEY REED
L1	I do hereby certify that the foregoing
L2	transcript of the deposition of DEPUTY WESLEY REED
L3	was submitted to the witness for reading and signing;
L4	that after he had stated to the undersigned Notary
L5	Public that he had read and examined his deposition,
L6	he signed the same in my presence on the
L7	day of,
L8	
L9	Notary Public
20	My commission expires
21	
22	
23	
24	

1 CERTIFICATE State of Ohio 2 SS: County of Franklin: I, Marilyn K. Martin, Notary Public in and 3 for the State of Ohio, duly commissioned and 5 qualified, certify that the within named witness was by me duly sworn to testify to the whole truth in the cause aforesaid; that the testimony was taken down by me in stenotypy in the presence of said witness, afterwards transcribed upon a computer; that the 10 foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the 11 testimony given by said witness taken at the time and 12 place in the foregoing caption specified. 13 I certify that I am not a relative, 14 employee, or attorney of any of the parties hereto, or of any attorney or counsel employed by the 15 16 parties, or financially interested in the action. 17 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and 18 affixed my seal of office at Columbus, Ohio, on this 19 27th day of May, 2022. marilyn Martin 20 21 MARILYN K. MARTIN 22 Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio and Registered Professional Reporter. 23 24 My Commission Expires October 16, 2026.

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